UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/124
16 February 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 15 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 5 and 11 February 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause damage to public and private property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-03394 (E) 170298 170298

/...

Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 5-11 February 1998

1. In the northern region 56 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar.

2. In the southern region 799 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Habbariyah, Basrah, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Diwaniyah, Rifa'i, Nukhayb, Qal'at Salih, Taqtaqanah, Ali al-Sharqi, Abu Sukhayr and Qal'at Sukkar.

3. Four violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 1210 and 1235 hours on 1 February 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

5. On 4 and 8 February, United States aircraft committed several violations of Iraqi airspace in the Umm Qasr and Fao area.

6. At 2238 hours on 8 February 1998 a formation comprised of a number of United States aircraft launched three flares in the north of the Chalabiyah area.